THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Suicides *vis-a-vis* debt scenario

1972. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether suicides by farmers due to crop failure and debt-trap have become endemic;

(b) if so, the total number of suicides during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether NSSO report No. 498 has shown that 65.4 per cent farmer households were indebted;

(d) the present farmer debt scenario in country/States;

(e) whether debt-burden on each farmer in more than average annual per capita income;

(f) if so, whether it is not an alarming scenario, that agriculture has become a profession of loss; and

(g) the steps taken to save the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Statement-I indicating state-wise figures of suicide during the recent years as per the information received from the State Government is enclosed (*See* below)

(c) to (g) As per the NSSO Report No. 498 out of 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million (48.6%) were reported to be indebted. Statement II

showing the present scenario of farmers' debt in the country is enclosed (*See* below). The average outstanding loan per farmer household in the country is Rs. 12585. In order to ameliorate the condition of farmers, the Government of India have initiated the following measures:

I. Debt restructuring in respect of farmers in distress and farmers in arrears providing for rescheduling of outstanding loans over a period of five years including moratorium of two years, thereby making all farmers eligible for fresh credit.

II. Banks are allowed to finance for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private money lenders.

III. Refinement of Kisan Credit Card scheme to simplify credit delivery mechanism to the farmers.

IV. The rate of interest on crop loans, up to a principal amount of Rs. 3 lakhs, has been reduced to 7% per annum with effect from kharif 2006-07.

V. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is implemented with the objective to protect the farmers against the crop losses suffered on account of natural Calamities.

VI. The Government of India has approved a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The package will be implemented over a period of three years and includes both immediate and medium term measures.

VII. Besides other Plan Schemes and Programmes for improving productivity and income in agriculture sector are also being implemented.

Statement-I

Cases of suicide by farmers in States

Sl. No.	Name of State	Period	No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2003-04	393
		2004-05	1126
		2005-06	378
		2006-07 (upto November)	104
2.	Karnataka	2003-04	708
		2004-05	271
		2005-06	152
		2006-07 (upto November)	71*
3.	Maharashtra	2003	173
		2004	622
		2005	577
		2006 (upto October 31)	1843
4.	Tamil Nadu	2000—2006	26
5.	Punjab	2003	13
		2004	11
		2005	6
6.	Kerala	2003	50
		2004	101
		2005	119
		2006 (upto December)	98
7.	Gujarat	2003	3
		2004	7
		2005	7
		2006 (up to May)	1

* Includes cases pending with Committee for want to information.

Source: As reported by State Governments.

Statement-II

The Estimated number of Rural Household and total indebted farmers household in each State

State	Estimated number of rural household ('00)	Estimated of farmer household ('00)	Estimated number of indebted farmer households ('00)	Percentage of farmer household indebted
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	142512	60339	49493	82.0
Arunachal Pradesh	15412	1227	72	5.9
Assam	41525	25040	4536	18.1
Bihar	116853	70804	23383	33.0
Chhattisgarh	36316	27598	11092	40.2
Gujarat	63015	37845	19644	51.9
Haryana	31474	19445	10330	53.1
Himachal Pradesh	11928	9061	3030	33.4
Jammu & Kashmir	10418	9432	3003	31.8
Jharkhand	36930	28238	5893	20.9
Karnataka	69908	40413	24897	61.6
Kerala	49942	21946	14126	64.4
Madhya Pradesh	93898	63206	32110	50.8
Maharashtra	118177	65817	36098	54.8
Manipur	2685	2146	533	24.8
Meghalaya	3401	2543	103	4.1
Mizoram	942	780	184	23.6
Nagaland	973	805	294	36.5
Orissa	66199	42341	20250	47.8
Punjab	29847	18442	12069	65.4
Rajasthan	70172	53080	27828	52.4

1	2	3	4	5
Sikkim	812	531	174	38.8
Tamil Nadu	110182	38880	28954	74.5
Tripura	5977	2333	1148	49.2
Uttar Pradesh	221499	171575	69199	40.3
Uttaranchal	11959	8962	644	7.2
West Bengal	121667	69226	34696	50.1
Group of UT's	2325	732	372	50.8
All India	1478988	893504	434242	48.6

Source: NSS Report No. 498

Implementation of PM package

1973. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PMO has issued any guidelines to States or district collectors for the implementation of the PM package to farmers;

(b) whether the PMO has received any requests from the State Governments or district collectors to issue clear guidelines for the utilization of the PM package; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has issued specific guidelines to the concerned State Governments and District Collectors regarding utilization of funds released from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) under the Rehabilitation Package for identified 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. Funds from PMNRF @ Rs. 50.00 Lakh for each District have also been placed at the disposal of the concerned Collectors for providing assistance to needy debt-stressed farmers and their families, for expenditure in connection with health and education especially of children. After issue of these guidelines, there